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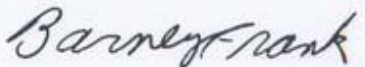
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Dear Friend,

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the Notch Act. I agree with you that the Notch Act should be repealed. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 368, a bill that would provide some financial help to those affected by Notch. I will vote for this or similar legislation if it comes before me in the House of Representatives, and I'll urge my colleagues to do the same. I continue to believe that the Notch Act was unfair, and I believe that we need to take action to make appropriate changes to make the system fairer for all victims of the Notch.

Indeed, I have worked very hard on the Notch issue since my first term in Congress, and I regret that despite a lot of effort over the years, we have not been able to pass legislation to fix this problem. As you are no doubt aware, there is a great deal of concern about the funding of the Social Security system, and there have been efforts to cut back even further on the benefits that older people get. However, I will continue to fight hard to protect and try to increase the benefits our country's senior citizens get, including keeping up my efforts on the Notch issue, though I do not want to give you Mail.salutation_for_merging.merge hope, because passing Notch legislation will be an uphill battle. But nonetheless, I will talk to my colleagues and try to work on a legislative remedy.

Sincerely,



BARNEY FRANK